

Benchmarking atomic data for astrophysics: Fe XVIII[★]

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ABSTRACT

Fe XVIII produces, in the X-ray and extreme ultraviolet, L-shell ($n = 2, 3, 4 \rightarrow 2$) spectral lines which are among the brightest ones in e.g. solar flares and in Chandra, XMM-Newton spectra of active stars. Recent R-matrix scattering calculations of Witthoeft et al. (2006, A&A, 446, 361) produce theoretical intensities for some of the brightest transitions increased by large factors (2–3), so it is timely to use these calculations to review and assess all previous line identifications on a quantitative basis. This paper discusses only the most important lines for laboratory and astrophysical applications. Many previous identifications are revised and some tentative ones finally confirmed. Many lines are found to be significantly blended. A considerable number of new identifications are proposed. Excellent agreement between observed and predicted intensities is found in the majority of cases for the first time. It is therefore now possible to use Fe XVIII L-shell lines to measure electron densities in laboratory plasmas and temperatures for a wide range of astrophysical sources.

Key words. atomic data – X-rays: stars – techniques: spectroscopic

1. Introduction

This paper continues the series dedicated to benchmarking the best atomic data against high-resolution spectra of laboratory and astrophysical sources. The main aim is to discuss line identifications and blends, suggest the best spectral lines to be used for plasma diagnostics, and provide some uncertainty estimates on the theoretical data. For a description of the general methods and goals see Paper I (Del Zanna et al. 2004).

In this paper Fe XVIII L-shell ($n = 2, 3, 4 \rightarrow 2$) emission is considered. This emission is prominent in solar flare spectra (see, e.g., Neupert et al. 1967) and in laboratory plasmas (see, e.g., Boiko et al. 1978). Fe XVIII is very abundant (in ionization equilibrium) at temperatures $T \approx 5$ MK (1 MK = 10^6 K), close to the typical temperatures of many active stellar coronae (e.g. Capella, 6 MK). Fe XVIII lines are therefore among the strongest ones in the XUV spectra of active stars, as Chandra, XMM-Newton, and EUVE observations have shown.

Previous scattering calculations for this ion were based on distorted-wave (DW) approximations (e.g. Mann 1983; Cornille et al. 1992; Sampson et al. 1991). Commonly-used spectral codes or atomic databases (e.g. ATOMDB, SPEX) were based on these types of calculations. For example, ATOMDB (previously known as APEC) included collisional data obtained with HULLAC, widely used in the astrophysical community. As shown in Witthoeft et al. (2006) (hereafter W06) with some examples, models based on these calculations largely underestimate the intensities for some of the strongest spectral lines, in particular for the $2s^2 2p^4 3s \rightarrow 2s^2 2p^5$ transitions. The discrepancies between observed and modelled spectra have been so large that these lines were listed in many previous papers as

only tentatively identified. Similar discrepancies persisted with the limited R-matrix calculation of Mohan et al. (1987). Desai et al. (2005) recently showed that large (factors of two) discrepancies also occur for the Capella spectrum, even when more recent calculations based on the FAC code are used. Notice that Capella is the brightest star in the X-rays.

The first complete R-matrix calculation including all resonances up to $n = 4$ was performed recently by W06 as part of the IRON Project collaboration. These new collision strengths are significantly different from the previous ones. In light of these results, it is therefore important to re-assess all previous line identifications by taking into account not only wavelength coincidences and oscillator strengths (as usually done in the past literature), but especially line intensities. Notice that Fe XVIII L-shell emission falls in a spectral region densely packed with hundreds of transitions from different ionization stages of Iron and other elements, many of which are still either unidentified or have a questionable identification.

It has been suggested that Fe XVIII L-shell lines could be used to measure the electron temperatures of astrophysical sources (Cornille et al. 1992) or the densities in laboratory plasmas; however, these have not been applied previously in the literature.

Section 2 describes the experimental data that were used in the benchmark. Section 3 describes the procedures and the atomic data adopted. Section 4 presents the results, while Sect. 5 draws conclusions.

2. Observations of Fe XVIII lines

The first observations of $n = 3 \rightarrow 2$ Fe XVIII lines in solar flares were made with the OSO-III satellite in the 1.3–20 Å region, and were reported by Neupert et al. (1967). Neupert et al. (1973) presented OSO-5 spectra of solar flares in the 6–25 Å region. They also contained strong Fe XVIII emission, but at the time no

[★] The full datasets of energies (Table 2) and radiative data (Table A1) are available in electronic form at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/qcat?J/A+A/459/307>

identifications were available. Kastner et al. (1974) reported the first solar-flare spectra containing the $n = 2 \rightarrow 2$ L-shell iron emission, in the 66–171 Å range from OSO-5.

Some of the first identifications came from Fawcett et al. (1967). Many more identifications (and mis-identifications) followed. Some for the $2s^2 2p^4 3d \rightarrow 2s^2 2p^5$ transitions (hereafter 3d-2p) came from the observations of low-inductance vacuum-spark spectra reported by Cohen et al. (1968) (hereafter Co68). Further revisions were produced by Feldman et al. (1973a), together with identifications of most of the strong $2s^2 2p^4 3s \rightarrow 2s^2 2p^5$ transitions (hereafter 3s-2p). Approximate intensities were also provided.

Later, an Nd-glass laser spectrum was produced by Chase et al. (1976). This spectrum proved to be very useful, because the strongest lines were from Fe XVIII and Fe XIX. Unfortunately, the spectral resolution and wavelength calibration were not very good. However, this spectrum enabled Bromage et al. (1977a) to provide identifications of a few $2s^2 2p^4 4d \rightarrow 2s^2 2p^5$ transitions.

A much better laboratory spectrum for Fe XVIII was produced later by Bromage et al. (1977b) (hereafter Br77) using a high-power Nd-glass laser and crystal spectrographs. Many more weaker lines were observed and approximate line intensities provided. The further advantage of this spectrum was the lack of iron emission due to ionization stages higher than XXI and the excellent spectral resolution.

Laser spectra were also published in a series of papers (see Boiko et al. 1978 and references therein). The Boiko et al. (1978) spectral accuracy and resolution (≈ 0.002 Å on average) were excellent, and approximate line intensities were provided, corrected for the film response and the filter absorption. One drawback of these spectra was the presence of emission lines for all ionization stages of iron. The laboratory plasmas had typical densities of the order of 10^{18} – 10^{20} cm⁻³ and temperatures of the order of 10^7 K. At such high densities, many lower levels become significantly populated, and many line ratios become very sensitive to density.

After the earlier solar observations, further improvements in terms of spectral resolution were achieved with the SOLEX spectrometers (see McKenzie et al. 1980, 1985), although the data lacked wavelength accuracy. The Solar Maximum Mission (SMM) flat-crystal spectrometers (FCS) produced one solar flare spectrum of excellent quality (see Phillips et al. 1982). The main limitation to these solar observations was that the spectral range was scanned, hence different lines were not observed simultaneously. This considerably complicates the analysis (cf. Landi & Phillips 2005).

Probably the best solar spectrum containing Fe XVIII lines was recorded during a rocket flight on July 13, 1982 (Acton et al. 1985). The spectrograph was of excellent resolution (0.02 Å) and quality. Spectra in the 10–100 Å range were recorded on film and later photometrically calibrated.

Recently, Electron Beam Ion Trap (EBIT) spectra containing the few brightest $n = 3 \rightarrow 2$ lines were published by Brown et al. (2002). Compared to laser spectra, the advantage of tokamak and EBIT spectra is the low density (similar to that of solar flares) and the presence of lines only from a restricted range of ions. The limitations of these laboratory data are the poor spectral resolution, the low signal-to-noise, and the lack of a radiometric calibration. More observations of Fe XVIII spectral lines with a resolution comparable to the best solar ones have been obtained with the Chandra high-energy transmission grating (HETG) for a variety of “hot” astrophysical sources.

3. The benchmark method

The general procedures of the benchmark method are described in detail in Del Zanna et al. (2004), while specific issues related to high-density laser spectra are discussed in Del Zanna et al. (2005). In summary, steady-state optically-thin emission in a plasma collisionally ionised and excited mainly by electrons having a Maxwellian distribution is assumed. Even in laboratory spectra, the lifetimes of the excited states are normally much shorter than the timescales over which the plasma conditions vary, and steady-state is a reasonable assumption. The inclusion of ionisation and recombination processes can affect some of the level populations and hence line intensities, but this is a secondary effect.

The benchmark method follows an iterative procedure. Atomic structure calculations (using SUPERSTRUCTURE, see Eissner et al. 1974) are run, together with the “term energy correction” (TEC) procedure (see, e.g. Zeippen et al. 1977; Nussbaumer & Storey 1978), to obtain empirically-adjusted fine-structure energies E_{SS} and spontaneous transition probabilities A_{ji} . The adjustments are made by matching preliminary identifications of the strongest lines in each configuration.

The A_{ji} values, along with the collisional data of W06, are then used to calculate, in steady-state conditions, the fractional population $N_j(N_e, T_e)$ of the upper level j (relative to the total number density of the ion), as a function of electron temperature T_e and density N_e , by taking all excitations, de-excitations and cascading into account. Proton excitation within the ground state has been applied as available in CHIANTI (Landi et al. 2006).

The theoretical intensities (proportional to $N_j A_{ji}$) at different densities and temperatures are compared to the observed intensities I_{ob} , by plotting the “emissivity ratio curves”

$$F_{ji}(N_e, T_e) = C \frac{I_{ob} N_e}{N_j(N_e, T_e) A_{ji}} \quad (1)$$

calculated at a fixed temperature $T_e = T_0$ (or at a fixed density $N_e = N_0$) as a function of the electron density N_e (or temperature T_e). For the astrophysical spectra considered here, a fixed density 10^{10} cm⁻³ has been adopted. The emissivity ratios are virtually insensitive to densities up to 10^{12} cm⁻³ (typical of flare plasmas). Notice that in ionisation equilibrium Fe XVIII has a peak abundance at $T = 10^{6.6-6.8}$ K.

The proportionality constant C is chosen for each dataset so that the emissivity ratios are close to unity. If agreement between theory and observations holds, the F_{ji} values for different spectral lines should approximately overlap. The line identifications and wavelengths are adjusted and the procedure repeated in order to identify all the spectral lines that should be observable and to provide a set of “best” (i.e. most accurate) energies E_{best} . These energies are the adjusted observed energies E_{obs} , whenever available, and the adjusted E_{SS} values otherwise.

This method is equivalent to the widely-used line ratio method, but it has the advantage of providing an overall view for all the spectral lines at once. It also clearly shows which combination of lines can be used for density and temperature diagnostics. If the emitting plasma is isothermal, the emissivity ratio curves provide a direct way of measuring electron temperatures.

The benchmark method adopted here maybe approximate, but at least it is more refined than simply using the weighted absorption oscillator strengths (gf values), widely adopted for line identification. The key for line identification is to calculate theoretical spectra in different regimes and to start identifying the

Table 1. The configurations used to calculate the energy levels and the radiative data.

c1: $2s^2 2p^5$	c2: $2s 2p^6$	c3: $2s^2 2p^4 3s$	c4: $2s^2 2p^4 3p$
c5: $2s^2 2p^4 3d$	c6: $2s 2p^5 3s$	c7: $2s 2p^5 3p$	c8: $2s 2p^5 3d$
c9: $2s^2 2p^4 4s$	c10: $2p^6 3s$	c11: $2s^2 2p^4 4p$	c12: $2s^2 2p^4 4d$
c13: $2p^6 3p$	c14: $2s^2 2p^4 4f$	c15: $2p^6 3d$	c16: $2s 2p^5 4s$
c17: $2s 2p^5 4p$	c18: $2s 2p^5 4d$	c19: $2s 2p^5 4f$	c20: $2p^6 4s$
c21: $2p^6 4p$	c22: $2p^6 4d$	c23: $2p^6 4f$	

brightest lines first. High-density laboratory spectra have provided most line identifications, but most line ratios change dramatically once in the low-density regime in astrophysical plasmas. This might be the reason mis-identifications are common in the literature.

4. Results

Table 1 lists the set of adopted configurations for calculating the radiative data in intermediate coupling. These configurations give rise to 279 fine-structure levels and are the same used in W06, in order to make sure of proper level assignments. TECs of the order of $10\,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ have been applied to most configurations. Applying TECs leads to changing the ordering of just a few levels. For the levels for which no observed energy could be firmly established, an energy correction of $10\,000\text{--}12\,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ was applied.

Table 2 presents a summary of the best energies E_{best} compared to the energies available from the NIST database v.3¹ for the configurations that are providing observed spectral lines. The ordering of the levels is the same as in the scattering calculation. We note good agreement (mostly within uncertainties) between many observed energies and the NIST ones. However, notable exceptions are present. Many new energy levels are proposed here.

The A values have been calculated with SUPERSTRUCTURE using the best energies. These values compare well (within 10%) with those previously available in the literature, in particular with those of W06 and with the relativistic Hartree-Fock calculation of Fawcett (1984), which included semi-empirical corrections. Values for the brightest transitions are shown in the Appendix. Unfortunately, a lack of beam-foil spectroscopic measurements prevents a thorough check on A values. Buchet et al. (1980) measured the lifetime of the $2s 2p^6 \ ^2S_{1/2}$ level to be $12.2 \pm 0.8\text{ ps}$. This is to be compared with the value of 9.1 obtained here.

Table 3 provides a summary list of all the lines that are predicted to be brightest, at both low-densities (10^{12} cm^{-3} , astrophysical plasmas) and high-densities (10^{19} cm^{-3} , laser plasmas), with a list of identifications. The second and third columns give the relative intensities of the lines. The fourth column lists the wavelengths calculated from the best energies E_{best} , while the fifth column lists our selection of best observed wavelengths λ_{obs} , with their uncertainties. All the lines observed in astrophysical plasmas have also been observed in laboratory, so that laboratory wavelengths are normally adopted here. The sixth column indicates some of the original identifications found in the literature. Note that clear assignments for original identifications are sometimes difficult to assess for a variety of reasons.

More details on new line identifications for each specific set of observations are to be found within the emissivity ratio plots. Each emissivity ratio plot shows for each line: a comment on the

identification (R: revised identification; N: new identification; bl: blend of more transitions; bl u: blend with an unidentified line); the observed intensity I_{ob} (scaled original units); the lower and upper level indices (cf. Table 2); and the theoretical wavelengths of the main lines contributing to the observed one.

4.1. $3d \rightarrow 2p$ transitions

The $3d \rightarrow 2p$ transitions provide useful diagnostics for measuring electron densities in laboratory plasmas. Some of the original identifications of the brightest lines are due to Fawcett et al. (1967), Cohen et al. (1968) and Feldman et al. (1973). Figure 1 shows the emissivity ratio curves based on the intensities in Feldman et al. (1973). Many lines are clearly blended, and many identifications have been revised.

Figure 2 shows the emissivity ratio curves relative to the main $3d \rightarrow 2p$ transitions observed in the laser spectra by Boiko et al. (1978). The agreement between theory and observations is very good (within $\pm 30\%$), considering the large uncertainties in the line intensities. In this and following cases, some of the observed intensities have been reduced to take blending into account. The curves consistently indicate $\log N_e \approx 20\text{ cm}^{-3}$. Quite good agreement is also found in the case of the Chase et al. spectra, shown in Fig. 3 (many line identifications have been revised). In the case of the Bromage et al. (1977) spectrum, the agreement is surprisingly good (see Fig. 4), considering that intensities were just estimates based on the density of the emulsion.

All these different datasets provide similar results, i.e. that many lines are blended and/or were not identified correctly. The amount of blending is often consistent, which gives confidence in the results, considering the wide variety of sources examined. One puzzling aspect is the low observed intensity of the strongest line, which must be a self-blend of the $^2P_{3/2} - ^2D_{5/2}$ (1–56) and the $^2P_{3/2} - ^2P_{3/2}^e$ (1–55) transitions (a blend normally not reported in the literature). These two lines are expected to be very close in wavelength, and indeed in the highest-resolution spectra the observed line is wide. It is therefore possible that, due to its large width, the intensity of this line has been underestimated. The same situation also occurs in some (but not all) of the astrophysical spectra examined.

In most of the solar flare or astrophysical plasmas, Fe XVIII emission is expected to be close to the low-density limit, and most of the lines observed in laboratory plasmas will not be detectable anymore. To shed some light on the brightest lines observable in astrophysical plasmas, we now consider (Fig. 5) the rocket flight spectrum in Acton et al. (1985). Some of the lines that appear to be blended in laboratory spectra are still blended in the solar one (e.g. 1–59, 2–55+1–47), while others become blended (e.g. 2–61, 2–57, 1–41). The rest (1–56+1–55, 1–49, 1–40) show excellent agreement between calibrated and computed intensities. Notice that the 14.772 \AA line cannot be due to the 2–40 transition alone. Actually a much stronger transition (3–99) is probably blending. Still, further blending is present.

¹ <http://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/ASD/index.html>

Table 2. The details of some of the levels in the most important configurations in Fe XVIII.

i	Conf. (1s ²)	Level	E_{best}	E_{best}^- E_{NIST}	E_{best}^- E_{CC}
1	2s ² 2p(99%)	² P _{3/2} ^o	0.0 ± 0	0	+0
2	2s ² 2p ⁵ (99%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	102579.0 ± 1	0	-2253
3	2s 2p ⁶ (99%)	² S _{1/2} ^e	1064600.0 ± 100	-102	-14168
4	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(91%)	⁴ P _{5/2} ^e	6222000.0 ± 1550	0	-10863
5	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(56%) +10(10%) +7(32%)	² P _{3/2} ^e	6248050.0 ± 1950	-50	-12662
6	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(83%) +16(14%)	⁴ P _{1/2} ^e	6301200.0 ± 1590	-9000	-7814
7	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(66%) +5(31%)	⁴ P _{3/2} ^e	6317900.0 ± 1600	0	-9955
8	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(89%)	² P _{1/2} ^e	6342600.0 ± 1500	0	-11113
9	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(91%)	² D _{5/2} ^e	6401200.0 ± 1200	1200	-12241
10	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(87%) +5(11%)	² D _{3/2} ^e	6403800.0 ± 1590	0	-13412
11	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(60%) +22(12%)	⁴ P _{3/2} ^o	6458370.0 ± 5000	-	-18251
12	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(67%) +21(23%)	⁴ P _{5/2} ^o	6462600.0 ± 5000	-	-17712
13	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(21%) +19(40%) +38(19%) +23(13%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	6488759.0 ± 5000	-	-18248
14	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(90%)	⁴ D _{7/2} ^o	6494300.0 ± 5000	-	-18607
15	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(60%) +25(10%) +21(14%) +12(13%)	² D _{5/2} ^o	6494900.0 ± 5000	-	-19626
16	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3s(77%) +6(11%)	² S _{1/2} ^e	6550900.0 ± 1700	-24200	-12106
29	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(47%) +20(41%)	² P _{3/2} ^e	6739400.0 ± 1300	-	-19290
30	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(29%) +13(14%) +38(45%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	6759154.0 ± 5000	-	-18010
31	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(73%)	⁴ D _{5/2} ^e	6804316.0 ± 5000	-	-11854
32	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(76%) +45(16%)	⁴ D _{7/2} ^e	6805798.0 ± 5000	-	-11898
33	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(63%) +40(16%)	⁴ D _{5/2} ^e	6809090.0 ± 5000	-	-11822
34	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(49%) +39(19%) +42(16%) +58(13%)	⁴ D _{1/2} ^e	6819082.0 ± 5000	-	-11783
35	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(78%)	² P _{3/2} ^o	6822301.0 ± 5000	-	-18204
36	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(89%) +51(10%)	⁴ F _{9/2} ^e	6830970.0 ± 5000	-	-11854
37	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(58%) +50(12%) +45(26%)	² F _{7/2} ^e	6839870.0 ± 5000	-	-13417
38	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3p(11%) +30(46%) +13(34%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	6845322.0 ± 5000	-	-17821
39	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(64%) +42(19%)	⁴ P _{1/2} ^e	6858700.0 ± 1000	500	-10530
40	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(50%) +46(25%)	⁴ P _{3/2} ^e	6872400.0 ± 1900	0	-11913
41	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(27%) +44(23%) +49(19%) +47(21%)	² F _{5/2} ^e	6879000.0 ± 1000	-1400	-14309
42	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(30%) +34(46%) +58(16%)	² P _{1/2} ^e	6896892.0 ± 5000	-6308	-11820
43	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(78%)	⁴ F _{3/2} ^e	6902700.0 ± 1000	-	-9528
44	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(51%) +59(11%) +47(19%)	⁴ F _{5/2} ^e	6902700.0 ± 1000	-1000	-12080
45	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(52%) +37(26%) +32(18%)	⁴ F _{7/2} ^e	6913179.0 ± 5000	-	-12424
46	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(20%) +33(27%) +57(10%) +40(19%) +48(10%)	² D _{3/2} ^o	6919000.0 ± 2000	0	-9856
47	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(43%) +41(37%)	⁴ P _{5/2} ^e	6935300.0 ± 1000	-	-10716
48	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(49%) +55(20%)	² P _{3/2} ^e	6947000.0 ± 4000	-300	-12355
49	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(44%) +41(25%) +56(14%)	² D _{5/2} ^e	6957500.0 ± 1000	0	-12530
50	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(85%)	² G _{7/2} ^e	6987191.0 ± 5000	-	-12627
51	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(89%) +36(10%)	² G _{9/2} ^e	6991759.0 ± 5000	-	-12275
52	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(62%) +56(26%)	² F _{5/2} ^e	7013600.0 ± 1000	-	-15252
53	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(83%)	² S _{1/2} ^e	7013600.0 ± 1000	-700	-15738
54	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(89%)	² F _{7/2} ^e	7025363.0 ± 5000	-	-14964
55	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(66%) +48(19%)	² P _{3/2} ^e	7037900.0 ± 1000	-500	-16068
56	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(33%) +52(21%) +59(14%) +49(25%)	² D _{5/2} ^e	7040300.0 ± 1000	-500	-19693
57	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(69%) +46(25%)	² D _{3/2} ^e	7070000.0 ± 4000	3900	-14390
58	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(59%) +42(33%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	7074100.0 ± 3000	-100	-17443
59	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(61%) +56(19%)	² D _{5/2} ^o	7162300.0 ± 3000	-4100	-9703
60	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(98%)	⁴ P _{5/2} ^o	7161204.0 ± 5000	-24596	-15169
61	2s ² 2p ⁴ 3d(61%) +46(14%)	² D _{3/2} ^e	7182700.0 ± 1000	-1600	-9737
62	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(68%) +64(28%)	⁴ P _{3/2} ^o	7197414.0 ± 1880	-386	-15166
63	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(82%) +65(13%)	⁴ P _{1/2} ^o	7242722.0 ± 5000	18122	-15252
64	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(69%) +62(27%)	² P _{3/2} ^o	7250524.0 ± 1530	-376	-16426
69	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(41%) +79(11%) +75(10%) +72(27%)	⁴ D _{3/2} ^o	7449300.0 ± 2500	-15100	-12668
70	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(50%) +74(47%)	² D _{5/2} ^o	7464400.0 ± 2500	-12800	-10428
71	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(48%) +76(32%) +73(16%)	⁴ D _{1/2} ^o	7476930.0 ± 5000	-	-11995
72	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(60%) +69(36%)	² P _{3/2} ^e	7487800.0 ± 2200	0	-14694
73	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(54%) +76(12%) +80(19%)	² P _{1/2} ^e	7508100.0 ± 3300	0	-12079
74	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(32%) +67(39%) +70(23%)	⁴ P _{5/2} ^e	7508100.0 ± 3300	0	-13597
75	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(45%) +79(41%)	⁴ P _{3/2} ^e	7513866.0 ± 5000	-16034	-11988
76	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(51%) +71(44%)	⁴ P _{1/2} ^e	7519602.0 ± 5000	-	-11828
77	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(96%)	² P _{3/2} ^o	7537200.0 ± 5000	-	-7556
78	2s 2p ⁵ 3s(93%)	² P _{1/2} ^o	7537200.0 ± 5000	-	-13931
79	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(44%) +69(17%) +75(23%) +72(10%)	² D _{3/2} ^o	7558606.0 ± 5000	-8394	-11942
80	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(58%) +73(25%)	² S _{1/2} ^e	7579774.0 ± 5000	-19626	-16413

E_{best} indicates the best energies (cm⁻¹) proposed here. The uncertainties in the energies reflect the estimated errors in the wavelength measurements. Levels with uncertain identification are assigned an uncertainty of 5000 cm⁻¹. E_{NIST} indicate energies from NIST v.3, while E_{CC} indicate the energies in W06.

Table 2. continued.

i	Conf. (1s ²)	Level	E_{best}	$E_{\text{best}} - E_{\text{NIST}}$	$E_{\text{best}} - E_{\text{CC}}$
81	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(97%)	4P _{1/2} ^o	7713983.0 ± 5000	–	–21337
82	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(87%) +97(11%)	4P _{3/2} ^o	7723705.0 ± 5000	–	–21298
83	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(99%)	4F _{9/2} ^o	7733985.0 ± 5000	–	–21198
84	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(60%) +94(30%)	4P _{5/2} ^o	7739843.0 ± 5000	–	–21226
85	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(76%) +96(17%)	4F _{7/2} ^o	7743887.0 ± 5000	–	–21188
86	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(54%) +95(15%) +84(16%)	4F _{5/2} ^o	7764578.0 ± 5000	–	–21145
87	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(90%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	7775030.0 ± 5000	11630	–12279
88	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(52%) +96(45%)	2F _{7/2} ^o	7780426.0 ± 5000	–	–20951
89	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(54%) +97(22%) +99(15%)	4F _{3/2} ^o	7781809.0 ± 5000	–	–21113
90	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(95%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	7801500.0 ± 3000	17600	–7933
91	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(94%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	7805938.0 ± 5000	19938	–12115
92	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(91%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	7816324.0 ± 5000	21924	–11982
93	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(91%)	4D _{1/2} ^o	7811419.0 ± 5000	–	–21003
94	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(47%) +101(28%) +84(14%)	4D _{3/2} ^o	7825043.0 ± 5000	–	–20947
95	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(60%) +86(22%) +101(11%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	7825155.0 ± 5000	–	–20956
96	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(35%) +85(21%) +88(40%)	4D _{3/2} ^o	7826259.0 ± 5000	–	–20937
97	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(63%) +89(23%)	4D _{5/2} ^o	7832855.0 ± 5000	–	–21033
98	2s 2p ⁵ 3p(77%) +80(18%)	2S _{1/2} ^o	7845790.0 ± 5000	–	–11307
99	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(60%) +89(18%) +102(16%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	7834270.0 ± 1800	–	–25658
100	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(86%) +106(10%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	7864650.0 ± 1800	–	–21603
101	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(48%) +94(15%) +95(21%)	2F _{5/2} ^o	7876718.0 ± 5000	–	–20840
102	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(74%) +99(17%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	7923400.0 ± 1000	–	–21201
103	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(92%)	2F _{3/2} ^o	8103625.0 ± 5000	–	–20996
104	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(96%)	2F _{7/2} ^o	8106455.0 ± 5000	–	–20963
105	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(87%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	8118335.0 ± 5000	–	–20660
106	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(86%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	8126521.0 ± 5000	–	–20574
107	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(89%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	8133315.0 ± 5000	–	–20821
108	2s 2p ⁵ 3d(94%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	8134038.0 ± 5000	–	–20839
109	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(90%)	4P _{5/2} ^o	8419134.0 ± 5000	–	–13174
110	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(70%) +122(10%) +113(19%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	8428196.0 ± 5000	–4	–13117
112	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(72%) +161(18%)	4P _{3/2} ^o	8493379.0 ± 5000	–	–13177
113	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(79%) +110(20%)	4P _{1/2} ^o	8507584.0 ± 5000	–9616	–13063
114	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(83%) +112(14%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	8514808.0 ± 5000	–	–13020
121	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(90%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	8591781.0 ± 5000	681	–13023
122	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(89%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	8592963.0 ± 5000	–37	–13012
130	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(62%) +157(12%) +163(14%)	4D _{5/2} ^o	8644764.0 ± 5000	–	–13713
131	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(65%) +160(25%)	4D _{7/2} ^o	8645002.0 ± 5000	–	–13602
132	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(31%) +162(47%)	4P _{5/2} ^o	8646812.0 ± 5000	–	–13743
133	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(16%) +159(28%) +136(43%) +182(10%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	8650636.0 ± 5000	–	–13694
134	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(90%)	4F _{5/2} ^o	8652211.0 ± 5000	–	–13516
135	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(68%) +174(10%) +160(18%)	2F _{5/2} ^o	8656340.0 ± 5000	–	–13463
136	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(39%) +133(42%)	4P _{1/2} ^o	8665274.0 ± 5000	–	–13367
137	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(31%) +132(32%) +165(20%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	8676800.0 ± 1500	800	–11603
138	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(39%) +164(23%) +163(18%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	8676800.0 ± 1500	800	–13988
156	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(57%) +162(13%) +196(15%)	4F _{3/2} ^o	8723045.0 ± 5000	–4455	–13476
157	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(45%) +130(21%) +195(13%) +163(14%)	4F _{5/2} ^o	8725894.0 ± 5000	–1606	–13454
159	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(66%) +133(22%)	4D _{1/2} ^o	8732590.0 ± 5000	–	–13500
160	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(51%) +135(20%) +131(28%)	4F _{7/2} ^o	8737085.0 ± 5000	–	–13428
161	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4s(76%) +112(12%)	2S _{1/2} ^o	8739122.0 ± 5000	–	–13216
162	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(30%) +156(18%) +137(13%) +132(22%) +165(11%)	4D _{5/2} ^o	8740345.0 ± 5000	–	–13340
163	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(43%) +157(14%) +164(32%)	4P _{5/2} ^o	8744662.0 ± 5000	–11938	–13326
164	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(33%) +157(12%) +138(46%)	2F _{3/2} ^o	8756600.0 ± 3000	–	–10829
165	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(50%) +137(28%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	8759800.0 ± 3500	–100	–11409
174	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(87%)	2G _{7/2} ^o	8817155.0 ± 5000	–	–13432
175	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(90%)	2G _{9/2} ^o	8819047.0 ± 5000	–	–13399
176	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(53%) +180(28%) +195(10%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	8829200.0 ± 3000	0	–11171
177	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(75%) +182(15%)	2S _{1/2} ^o	8827654.0 ± 5000	–1546	–13594
178	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(87%)	2P _{3/2} ^o	8829200.0 ± 3000	0	–14240
179	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(89%)	2F _{5/2} ^o	8831094.0 ± 5000	–	–13265
180	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(59%) +176(22%)	2F _{7/2} ^o	8829200.0 ± 3000	0	–17404
181	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(75%) +137(13%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	8842300.0 ± 1500	–1600	–14545
182	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(67%) +133(17%) +177(13%)	2P _{1/2} ^o	8842300.0 ± 1500	–1600	–17941
195	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(66%) +176(12%)	2D _{5/2} ^o	8972474.0 ± 5000	–	–13200
196	2s ² 2p ⁴ 4d(66%)	2D _{3/2} ^o	8989100.0 ± 3000	–100	–2203

Table 3. Line identifications.

$i-j$	Int 10^{12}	Int 10^{19}	$\lambda_{\text{best}}(\text{\AA})$	$\lambda_{\text{obs}}(\text{\AA})$	same ID	diff. ID
2-196	1.6×10^{-3}	1.8×10^{-2}	11.253(4)	11.253(4) (bl u)	Br77a	
1-178	3.1×10^{-2}	2.9×10^{-2}	11.326(4)	11.326(4) Br77 (bl)	Br77a	
1-180	3.6×10^{-2}	2.9×10^{-2}	11.326(4)	11.326(4) Br77 (bl)	Br77a	
1-177	2.1×10^{-2}	1.8×10^{-2}	11.328(6)	11.326(4) Br77 (bl)	Br77a	
1-164	5.8×10^{-2}	4.3×10^{-2}	11.420(4)	11.420(4) Br77 (bl?)	Br77a	
2-181	9.7×10^{-3}	2.8×10^{-2}	11.442(2)	11.442(2) Bo78 (bl)	Br77	
2-182	5.7×10^{-3}	2.4×10^{-2}	11.442(2)	11.442(2) Bo78 (bl)	Br77	
2-178	7.6×10^{-3}	6.9×10^{-3}	11.459(4)	11.458(4) Br77 (bl u)		
1-137	3.0×10^{-2}	2.4×10^{-2}	11.525(2)	11.525(2) Bo78 (bl)	Br77a	
1-138	5.4×10^{-2}	4.2×10^{-2}	11.525(2)	11.525(2) Bo78 (bl)	Br77a	Bo78
2-165	4.9×10^{-3}	1.6×10^{-2}	11.551(5)	11.551(5) Br77 (bl u)	Br77 (R)	
1-90	1.1×10^{-2}	2.8×10^{-2}	12.818(5)	? 12.818(5) Br77 (bl Fe XX)		
1-73	1.2×10^{-2}	1.5×10^{-2}	13.319(6)	13.319(6) Br77 (bl)	Br77	
1-74	2.4×10^{-2}	4.8×10^{-2}	13.319(6)	13.319(6) Br77 (bl)	Br77	
1-72	1.9×10^{-2}	3.1×10^{-2}	13.355(4)	13.355(4) Br77	Br77	
2-80	3.4×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	13.374(9)	? 13.374(4) Br77 (bl u)		Br77
1-70	3.4×10^{-2}	5.4×10^{-2}	13.397(4)	13.397(4) Br77 (bl ?)		Br77
1-69	1.8×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}	13.424(5)	13.424(4) Br77 (bl Fe XIX?)		Br77
1-67	1.9×10^{-2}	4.3×10^{-2}	13.464(5)	13.464(4) Br77 (bl Fe XIX ?)	Br77	
1-59	4.1×10^{-2}	5.9×10^{-2}	13.962(6)	13.962(2) Bo78 (bl u)	Co68, Fe73, Br77(.956)	
2-61	1.4×10^{-2}	0.23	14.124(2)	14.124(2) Bo78	Co68, Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-57	2.4×10^{-2}	5.9×10^{-2}	14.144(8)	14.155(2) Bo78 (bl)	Fe73, Br77(.152), Bo78	
3-106	3.2×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	14.160(10)	? 14.155(2) Bo78 (bl)		
3-105	4.4×10^{-3}	2.3×10^{-2}	14.177(10)	? 14.155(2) Bo78 (bl)		
1-56	0.64	0.50	14.204(2)	14.204(2) Bo78 (bl)	Fa67, Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-55	0.36	0.31	14.209(2)	14.204(2) Bo78 (bl)	Co69	
1-52	5.6×10^{-2}	8.1×10^{-2}	14.258(2)	14.258(2) Bo78 (bl)	?	
1-53	0.15	0.13	14.258(2)	14.258(2) Bo78 (bl)	Fe73, Br77, Bo78	Co69
2-58	5.0×10^{-2}	0.16	14.344(6)	14.344(6) Br77	Br77	
2-57	7.9×10^{-2}	0.19	14.353(8)	? 14.351(2) Bo78	Bo78, Fe73, Br77(.360)	
1-49	0.25	0.22	14.373(2)	14.373(2) Bo78	Fa67, Co69, Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-48	5.6×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	14.395(8)	? 14.387(2) Bo78		
1-47	4.6×10^{-2}	7.6×10^{-2}	14.419(2)	14.419(2) Bo78 (bl u)		
2-55	5.5×10^{-2}	4.8×10^{-2}	14.419(2)	14.419(2) Bo78 (bl u)	Fe73, Br77	
1-46	2.4×10^{-2}	4.2×10^{-2}	14.453(4)	14.453(6) Br77 (bl u)		Co69, Br77
2-53	2.5×10^{-2}	2.2×10^{-2}	14.470(2)	? 14.469(6) Br77 (bl u)	Fe73	Br77
1-43	3.2×10^{-2}	4.5×10^{-2}	14.487(2)	14.487(2) Bo78 (bl u)		Fe73, Br77, Bo78
1-44	1.7×10^{-2}	9.4×10^{-3}	14.487(2)	14.487(2) Bo78 (bl u)		Fe73
1-41	0.19	0.19	14.537(2)	14.538(2) Bo78	? Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-40	9.6×10^{-2}	0.10	14.551(4)	14.551(4) Br77 (bl u)	Co69, Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-39	4.5×10^{-2}	5.0×10^{-2}	14.580(2)	14.580(2) Bo78 (bl)	Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
3-102	8.6×10^{-3}	3.8×10^{-2}	14.580(2)	14.580(2) Bo78 (bl)		
2-48	2.2×10^{-2}	5.0×10^{-2}	14.610(9)	14.610(4) Br77 (bl u)	Br77	
2-46	1.8×10^{-2}	3.1×10^{-2}	14.670(4)	14.668(2) Bo78 (bl Fe XIX)		Bo78
3-100	2.2×10^{-2}	2.3×10^{-2}	14.706(4)	14.706(4) Br77 (bl Fe XIX)		
2-40	1.2×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	14.771(4)	14.772(4) Br77 (bl N)	Fe73, Br77	
3-99	3.0×10^{-2}	2.7×10^{-2}	14.772(4)	14.772(4) Br77 (bl)		
1-16	3.9×10^{-3}	1.4×10^{-2}	15.265(4)	? 15.258(2) Fe73 (bl Fe XVII)		Fe73
3-77	2.8×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}	15.450(12)	? 15.450(4) Br77 (bl)		
3-78	2.0×10^{-3}	1.6×10^{-2}	15.450(12)	? 15.450(4) Br77 (bl)		
2-16	1.5×10^{-2}	5.3×10^{-2}	15.508(4)	? 15.508(4) Bo78 (bl u)		Fe73, Br77(.491), Bo78
1-9	0.31	0.26	15.622(3)	15.622(2) Bo78	Fa67, Fe73, Br77, Bo78	
1-8	4.4×10^{-2}	4.6×10^{-2}	15.766(4)	15.766(4) Br77 (bl u)	Fe73, Br77	
1-7	0.20	0.16	15.828(4)	15.828(4) Br77	Fa67, Fe73, Br77	
1-6	7.8×10^{-2}	4.9×10^{-2}	15.870(4)	15.870(4) Br77 (bl)		
2-10	0.12	0.15	15.870(4)	15.870(4) Br77 (bl)	Fe73, Br77	
1-5	0.34	0.22	16.005(5)	16.005(5) Br77 (bl O VIII)	Fa67, Fe73, Br77	
2-8	5.1×10^{-2}	5.3×10^{-2}	16.026(4)	16.026(4) Br77 (bl)	Fe73, Br77	
3-65	2.9×10^{-3}	4.0×10^{-2}	16.026(4)	16.026(4) Br77 (bl)		
1-4	0.53	0.21	16.072(4)	16.072(4) Br77	Fe73, Br77	
2-7	1.7×10^{-2}	1.4×10^{-2}	16.089(4)	16.087(10) Fe73	Fe73	
3-64	0.15	9.7×10^{-2}	16.166(4)	16.166(4) Br77		
2-5	9.1×10^{-3}	5.8×10^{-3}	16.272(5)	? 16.272(5) Br77	Fe73, Br77	
3-62	4.8×10^{-2}	3.7×10^{-2}	16.306(5)	16.306(5) Br77		Br77
3-29	0.34	0.11	17.622(4)	17.622(4) Ph82		
1-3	4.1	3.4	93.932(9)	93.931(10) Fe73b	Bo70	
2-3	1.5	1.2	103.948(11)	103.954(10) Fe73b	Bo70	
4-14	0.19	2.6×10^{-2}	367.242	? 367.26(20) Dere78		
5-15	0.11	9.0×10^{-3}	405.104	? 405.08 (20) Dere78		
4-12	0.16	1.2×10^{-2}	415.628	? 415.52(20) Dere78		
1-2	4.5	1.1×10^{-5}	974.858(10)	974.86(20) P84	Do75	

The relative intensities Int (in photons, at 10^{12} , 10^{19} cm $^{-3}$) were scaled to the strong 1-56+1-55 14.204 Å blend, and calculated at $\log T = 6.8$. The best (λ_{best}) and observed (λ_{obs}) wavelengths are given with their uncertainties (values in mÅ). Some blends are indicated (bl = blend; bl u = blend with an unidentified line). Columns 5 and 6 contain some of the original and differing identifications. Bo70: Boiko et al. (1970); Bo78: Boiko et al. (1978); Br77a: Bromage et al. (1977a); Br77: Bromage et al. (1977b); Co68: Cohen et al. (1968); Co92: Cornille et al. (1992); Dere78: Dere (1978); Do75: Doscchek et al. (1975); Fa67: Fawcett et al. (1967); Fe73: Feldman et al. (1973a); Fe73b: Feldman et al. (1973b); P84: Peacock et al. (1984); Ph82: Phillips et al. (1982).

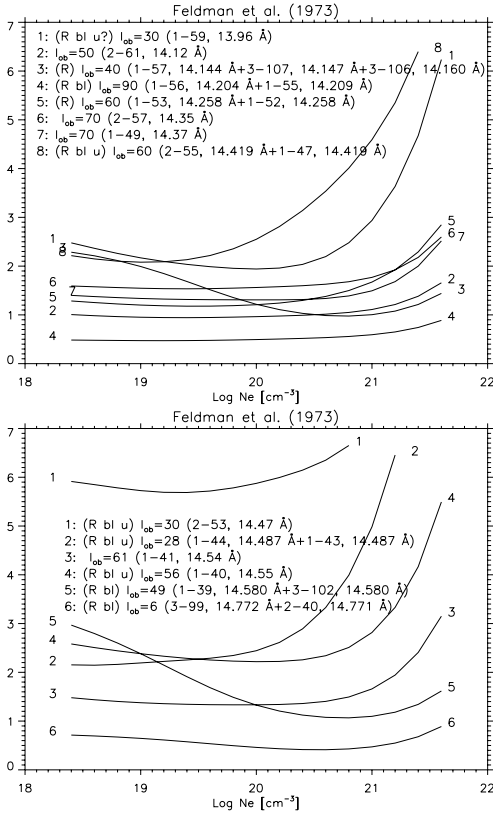


Fig. 1. The emissivity ratio curves (at $\log T[K] = 6.8$) relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed by Feldman et al. (1973), where some of the original identifications were proposed. No corrections have been applied to the observed intensities. Many lines are obviously blended.

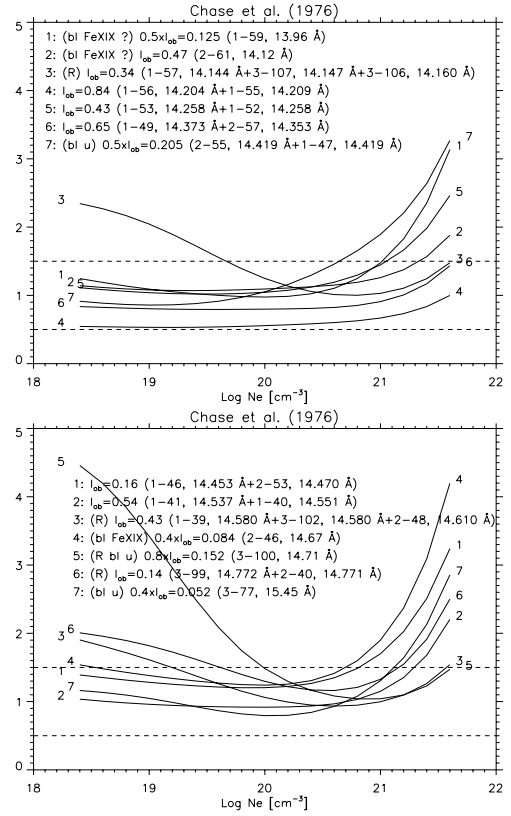


Fig. 3. The emissivity ratio curves (at $\log T[K] = 6.8$) relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in laser spectra by Chase et al. (1976).

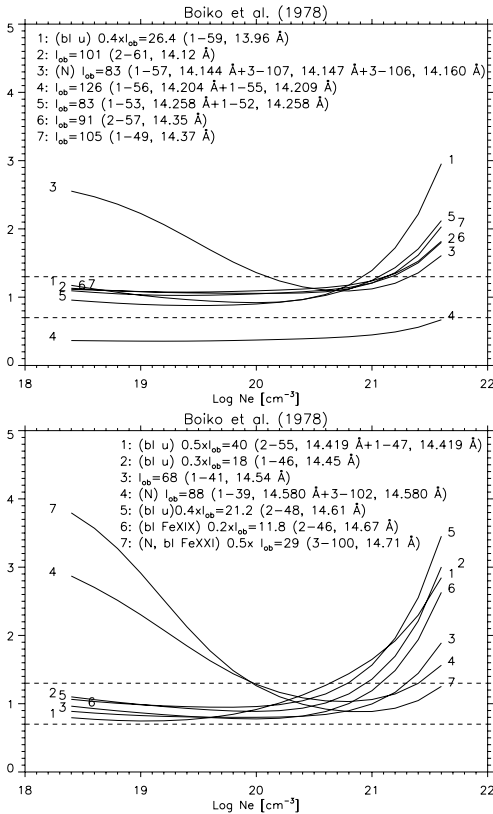


Fig. 2. The emissivity ratio curves (at $\log T[K] = 6.8$) relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in laser spectra by Boiko et al. (1978). The curves show agreement within $\pm 30\%$ (dashed lines).

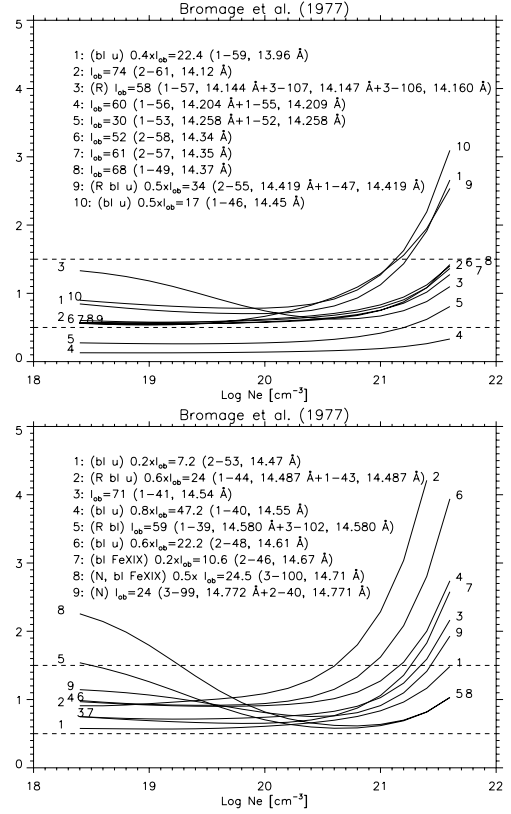


Fig. 4. The emissivity ratio curves (at $\log T[K] = 7.0$) relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in laser spectra by Bromage et al. (1977).

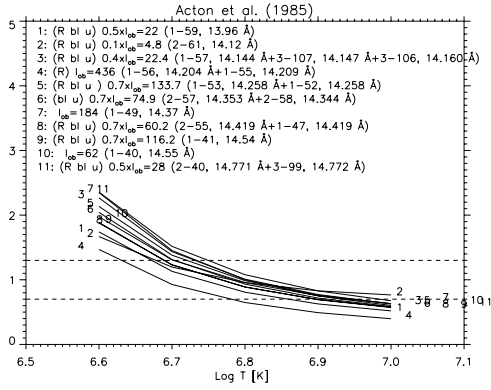


Fig. 5. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in a solar flare spectrum by Acton et al. (1985).

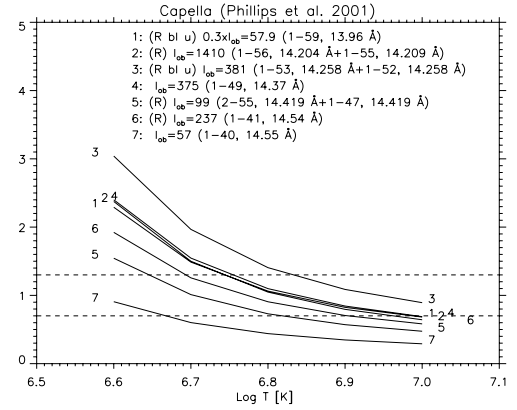


Fig. 7. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in a Chandra spectrum of Capella by Phillips et al. (2001).

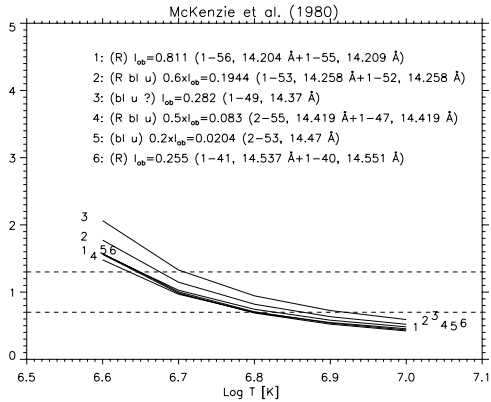


Fig. 6. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed with the SOLEX spectrometer by McKenzie et al. (1980).

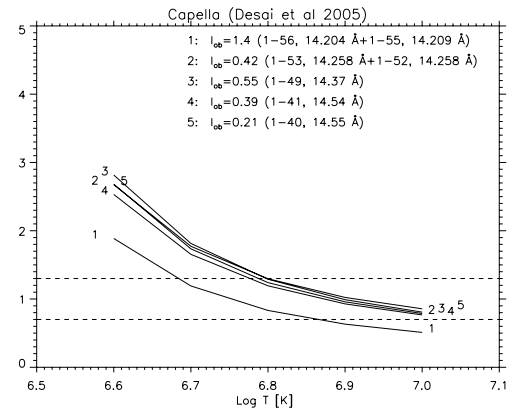


Fig. 8. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the 3d→2p transitions observed in a Chandra spectrum of Capella by Desai et al. (2005).

A similar situation occurs in the case of the SOLEX spectrum by McKenzie et al. (1980), shown in Fig. 6. Only three of the strongest lines appear not to be blended. Most identifications are revised in both cases.

4.1.1. Chandra observations of Capella

The spectral range of the Chandra HETG/MEG spectrometers allows a simultaneous recording of the Fe XVIII $n = 3 \rightarrow 2$ transitions, which can provide some useful temperature diagnostics.

The XUV emission from Capella is nearly isothermal, peaked at 6 MK (see, e.g. Phillips et al. 2001), so that the emissivity ratio method should give accurate results. Indeed Desai et al. (2005) found that the Fe XVIII line intensities were the same, within a few %, when calculated using a full emission measure distribution or when assuming an isothermal one.

A considerable number of papers on Chandra observations of Capella and with substantially different line intensities and identifications (based on various spectral codes or atomic data) can be found in the literature. Surprisingly, the agreement between calculated and observed line intensities is slightly less satisfactory, and it depends strongly on which published line intensities are adopted. Two examples are shown here, in Figs. 7 and 8, based on the tabulations of Phillips et al. (2001) and Desai et al. (2005).

4.2. 3s→2p and other transitions

The $2s^2 2p^4 3s \rightarrow 2s^2 2p$ transitions fall in the 15–17 Å range and, as suggested by Cornille et al. (1995), could be used to measure electron temperatures in astrophysical plasmas. One other positive aspect is the strength of these lines. As shown in

Withthoef et al. (2006), it is only with the latest *R*-matrix calculations that the theoretical intensities of these lines become similar to the observed ones.

Figures 9–11 present the emissivity ratio curves relative to all the $2s^2 2p^4 3s \rightarrow 2s^2 2p$ brightest transitions observed in the laboratory, solar, and stellar plasmas considered in the previous section. The same scaling of the 3d→2p transitions has been used. In most cases the curves fall within 30%, which indicates very good agreement between the intensities of these two transition arrays. Inspection of the figures also shows the different density/temperature sensitivity of these lines.

In the majority of cases line identifications have been revised and blending is present, at different levels depending on the particular observation. Fortunately, there are a few bright lines that consistently appear to be free of blends: the 1–9 $^2P_{3/2} - ^2D_{5/2}$ at 15.622 Å, the 1–7 $^2P_{3/2} - ^4P_{3/2}$ at 15.828 Å, the self-blend of the 2–10 $^2P_{1/2} - ^2D_{3/2}$ and 1–6 $^2P_{3/2} - ^4P_{1/2}$ transitions at 15.870 Å, the 1–4 $^2P_{3/2} - ^4P_{5/2}$ at 16.072 Å.

The 1–5 $^2P_{3/2} - ^2P_{3/2}$ is particularly important, because, even at the highest spectral resolution, it is blended with the $L\beta$ of O VIII, often used for diagnostic purposes (cf. Testa et al. 2004). It turns out that the Fe XVIII contribution to the blend has been underestimated in many cases. The same figures also include a few lines from the $2s^2 2p - 2s 2p^5 3s$, $2s 2p^6 - 2s 2p^5 3s$, $2s 2p^6 - 2s^2 2p^4 3p$ transition arrays, and these, too, present good agreement between calculated and observed intensities.

There are two strong un-blended lines: the 3–64 $2s 2p^6 \ ^2S_{1/2} - 2s 2p^5 3s \ ^2P_{3/2}$ at 16.166 Å, and the 3–29

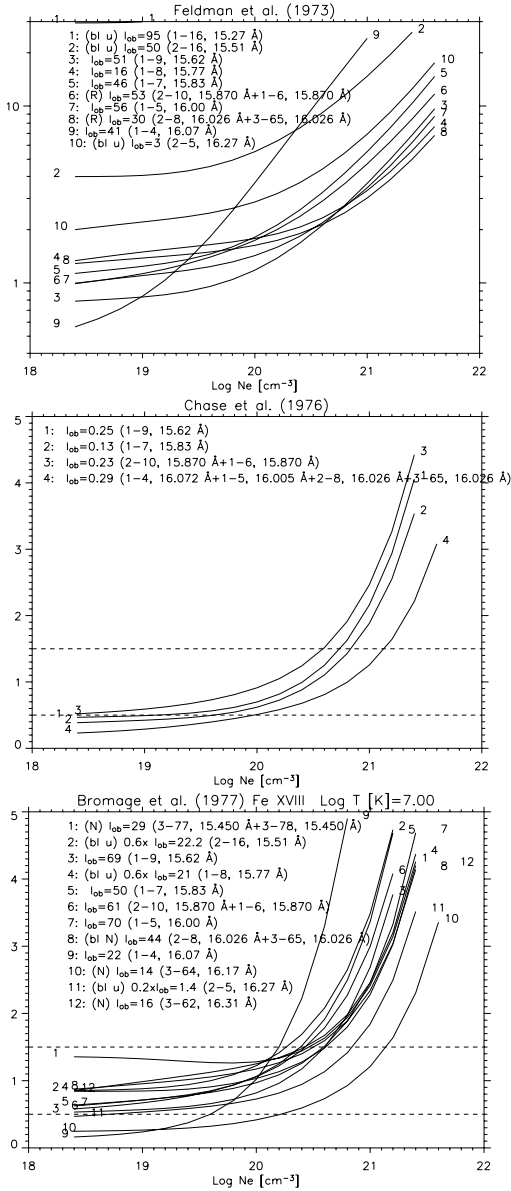


Fig. 9. The emissivity ratio curves (at $\log T[\text{K}] = 6.8$) relative to the $3s \rightarrow 2p$ transitions observed by Feldman et al. (1973; no corrections applied), Chase et al. (1976), and Bromage et al. (1977).

$2s 2p^6 \ ^2S_{1/2} - 2s^2 2p^4 3p \ ^2P_{3/2}$ at 17.621 Å. A tentative identification of the latter strong line was proposed by Cornille et al. (1992). The SMM and Chandra measurements all consistently indicate a wavelength of 17.621 Å, which provides a firm constraint on the energies of the $2s^2 2p^4 3p$ levels. At least three $2s^2 2p^4 3p \rightarrow 2s^2 2p^4 3s$ lines are predicted to be strong. The corrections to the ab initio energies provided by the 17.621 Å line suggest three likely matches with (previously unidentified) EUV flare lines in the excellent Skylab spectrum of Dere (1978).

4.2.1. $n = 2 \rightarrow 2$ transitions

$n = 2 \rightarrow 2$ transitions fall in the EUV spectral range. Contrary to what is reported by Desai et al., we find good agreement between the Chandra observations of these lines and the $n = 3 \rightarrow 2$ transitions, as Fig. 11 shows.

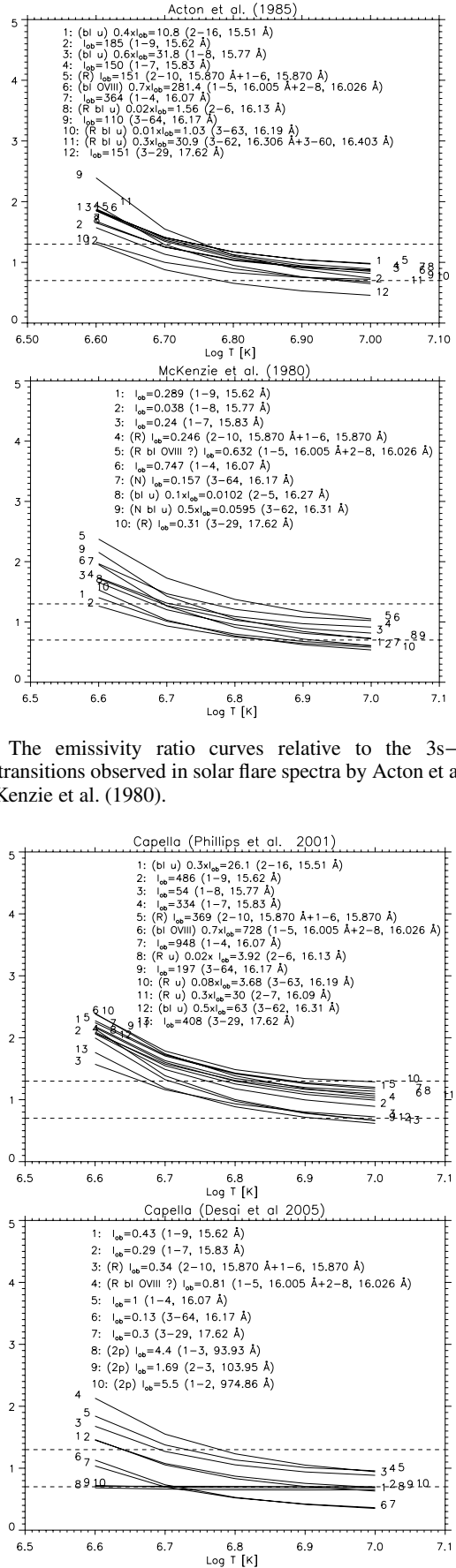


Fig. 10. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the $3s \rightarrow 2p$ and $3p \rightarrow 2p$ transitions observed in solar flare spectra by Acton et al. (1985) and McKenzie et al. (1980).

Fig. 11. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the $3s \rightarrow 2p$ and $3p \rightarrow 2p$ transitions observed in Chandra spectra of Capella by Phillips et al. (2001) and Desai et al. (2005).

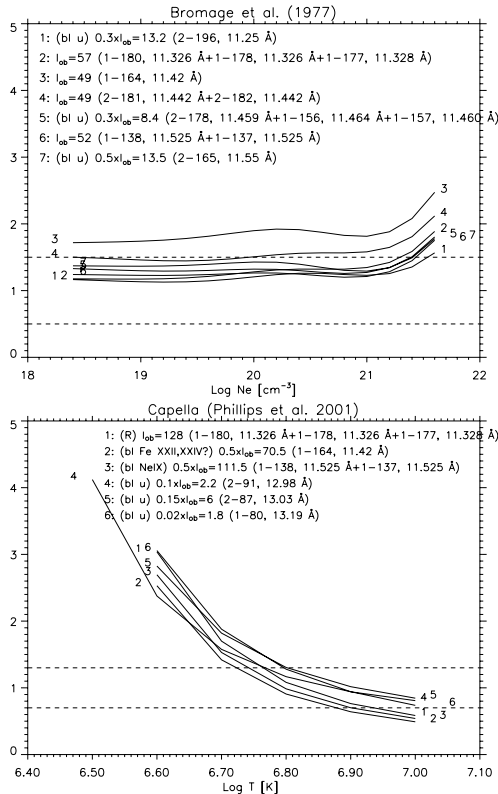


Fig. 12. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the $4d \rightarrow 2p$ transitions observed by Bromage et al. (1977) and Phillips et al. (2001).

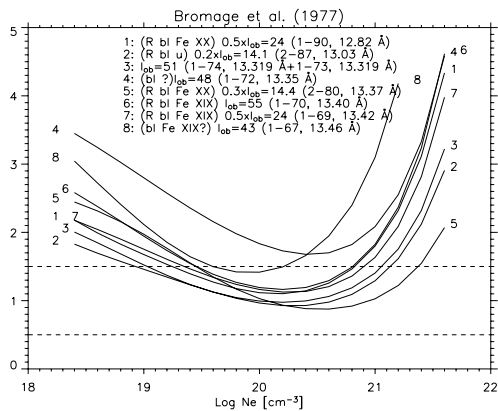


Fig. 13. The emissivity ratio curves relative to the $2p^5 \rightarrow 3p$ transitions observed by Bromage et al. (1977).

4.2.2. $n = 4 \rightarrow 2$ and $2p^5 \rightarrow 3p$ transitions

In the case of $4d \rightarrow 2p$ transitions (cf. Fig. 12), the agreement is only marginal, but still acceptable considering the fact that these lines fall in a different spectral range. A similar situation occurs with the $2p^5 \rightarrow 3p$ transitions (cf. Fig. 13). No agreement was found in the case of $4s \rightarrow 2p$ transitions.

5. Summary and conclusions

Recent IP R -matrix calculations from Witthoef et al. (2006) have been supplemented with radiative data and used to benchmark Fe XVIII L-shell emission against experimental data. Good agreement in terms of wavelengths and line intensities was found, thus giving us confidence in the use of these atomic data, which provide intensities for some transitions that are largely different from those obtained with previous calculations.

Most of the previous line identifications found in the literature were revised on a quantitative basis. In some cases, blends with known transitions were omitted, and in others, blends with newly identified lines are suggested. Many lines cannot be due to Fe XVIII and still await firm identification.

It is clear that Fe XVIII L-shell emission can be used to measure electron densities in laboratory plasmas and temperatures for a wide range of “hot” astrophysical sources. In particular, $n = 3, 4 \rightarrow 2$ transitions are an excellent density diagnostic in laser plasmas. The $n = 2, 3 \rightarrow 2$ transitions can be used as a temperature diagnostic for solar flare plasmas or stellar coronae, but well-calibrated and high-resolution measurements are required.

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